



100 FACES
OF WAR
EXPERIENCE



NAVY UDT-
SEAL MUSEUM

National Endowment for the Humanities
SUPPORTING VETERANS

LITERATURE
AND MEDICINE



AQUILA
THEATRE
ANCIENT
GREEKS/
MODERN LIVES

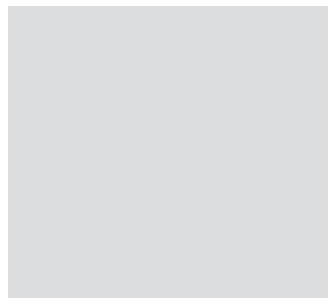


OPERATION
OPPORTUNITY



MISSOURI
WARRIOR-
WRITERS
PROJECT





Greetings,

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is a federal grant-making agency that awards competitive grants to institutions and individuals for humanities-focused projects. NEH grantees are from cultural institutions such as museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television and radio stations. NEH-funded projects vary from seminars for teachers and scholarly publications to digital apps and documentary films.

This report highlights six NEH-funded projects designed to support veterans and their communities through the humanities. The projects featured in this report demonstrate the diversity of the agency's work and the many strategies for supporting veteran communities throughout the country. These projects engage veterans, their families, and caregivers in conversations about how literature, philosophy, drama, art, and history relate to their experiences. These are just a few examples of how NEH funding fuels innovation, increases communication, and strengthens communities. Some initiatives, like Aquila Theatre *Ancient Greeks/Modern Lives*, use public venues to create safe spaces for veterans to process their experiences through performance, literature, and discussion. Other projects, like the Missouri Warrior-Writers Project, record veterans' stories so they become part of our nation's history and literature.

I am proud to say that the content of this report was produced entirely by student interns at the NEH. The layout, graphics, and design of the pages you are about to read are the product of a student practicum at the Washington, DC campus of Boston University's Center for Digital Imaging Arts. Because of the students' hard work, the NEH was able to compile these reports without the use of taxpayer funds. I hope that you will share this report with your staff, constituents, and colleagues.

Sincerely,

Courtney Chapin
NEH White House Liaison and Director of Congressional Affairs

Building communities through the humanities.



United States Marine Corps Cadet

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1

LITERATURE & MEDICINE

HUMANITIES AT THE HEART OF HEALTHCARE

Introduction

Doctors, nurses, administrators, and staff at Veterans Affairs Hospitals face unique pressures and challenges. To help them find an outlet and a community of support within the hospital, the Maine Humanities Council, with funding provided by the NEH, created *Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Healthcare*, a reading and discussion group now active in 20 VA hospitals across the country.

How It Works

Participants from every level of a VA hospital's staff meet on a weekly basis to discuss a work they have read and share how it relates to their experiences caring for veterans. Members of the group are able to discuss the successes, challenges, and general thoughts about their role in patients' lives. The creators of the program developed a special anthology, *Echoes of War: A Literature & Medicine Anthology*, which includes poems, essays, and short stories collected by *Literature & Medicine* that raise issues relevant to health care professionals who care for veterans. Through NEH's Office of Federal/State Partnership, 14 other state humanities councils have implemented *Literature & Medicine* in VA hospitals.

2,000+
participants

across the country. The participants surveyed in VA hospitals across the country in 2011 reported:

82%
increase

in Empathy for Patients

52%
improvement

in Interpersonal Relations

61%
increase

in Job Satisfaction

51%
improvement

in Communication

59%
increase

in Cultural Awareness

(Outcomes from surveys by Dr. Bruce Clary of
Muskie School of Public Service)



““ This has helped me see medical issues through other people’s eyes; it has broadened my thinking and horizons.””

– Nurse

““ Our discussions have significantly reordered how I think about medicine. I live with the experience of the protagonist in one of William Carlos Williams’ *Doctor Stories*, a physician who acted without listening. I do not want to be like him. I am learning to sit quietly and listen.””

– Doctor Participant



““ I have learned so much about human frailty and how we deal with it in our structured environment. I believe that this is important to everyone. I would like to see more of this throughout our industry.””

– Health Care Professional



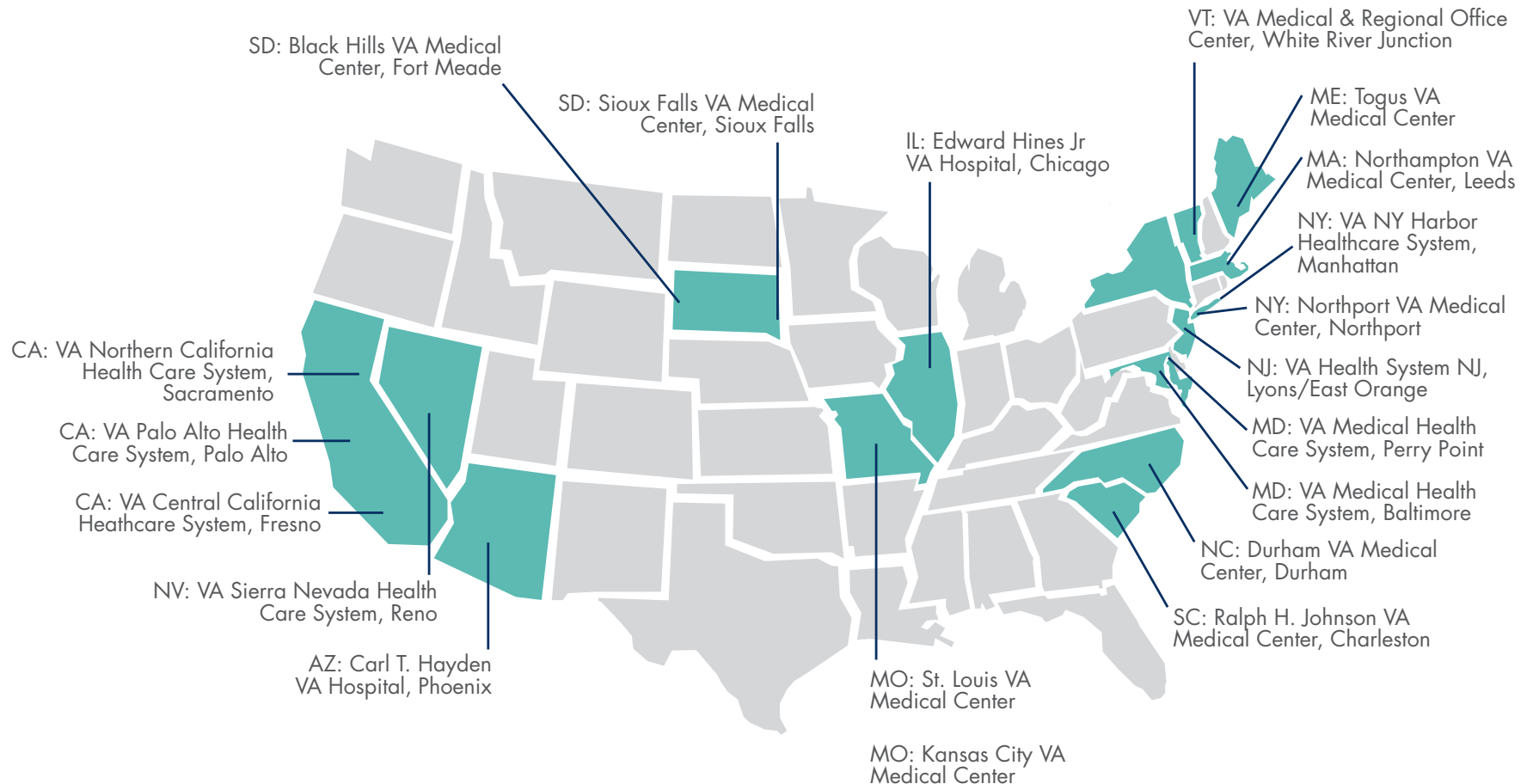
State Humanities Councils

The NEH funds 56 humanities councils located in all U.S. states and jurisdictions. The councils support local humanities programs and events—like book festivals, film screenings, discussions, and traveling exhibits—and many provide grants to local organizations, scholars, and citizens to create humanities programs and products.

The state humanities councils receive the majority of their funding from the NEH through the Office of Federal/State Partnership. They supplement this funding with support from private donations, foundations, corporations, and, in some cases, state government. Stories about the work of state humanities councils are located at <http://www.neh.gov/divisions/fedstate>.



LITERATURE AND MEDICINE AT VETERANS AFFAIRS HOSPITALS ACROSS THE US



2

MISSOURI WARRIOR- WRITERS PROJECT

Introduction

The Missouri Warrior-Writers Project provides an outlet for active military members, returning combat veterans, and their families to express themselves through creative writing. The project, which is funded by the Missouri Humanities Council (one of NEH's 56 state councils), published an anthology entitled *Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors* featuring exemplary submissions from veterans and their families and friends. The anthology demonstrates the writers' creativity and provides the public with unique perspectives on war and its effects on members of the armed forces throughout the last century.

How It Works

Organized by the Missouri Humanities Council in conjunction with the Southeast Missouri State University Press and the Warriors Arts Alliance, the Warrior-Writers Project engaged writers, poets, journalists, and authors to lead creative writing workshops for veterans at Jefferson Barracks VA Medical Center. The goal for these still-ongoing workshops is to provide advice, feedback, and instruction to military personnel so that they can better process and express their experiences as combat veterans. The Warrior-Writers Project showcased 74 of the top submissions in the compilation *Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors* and is currently collecting submissions for a second anthology.

728
stories

shared through VA workshops since August 2011

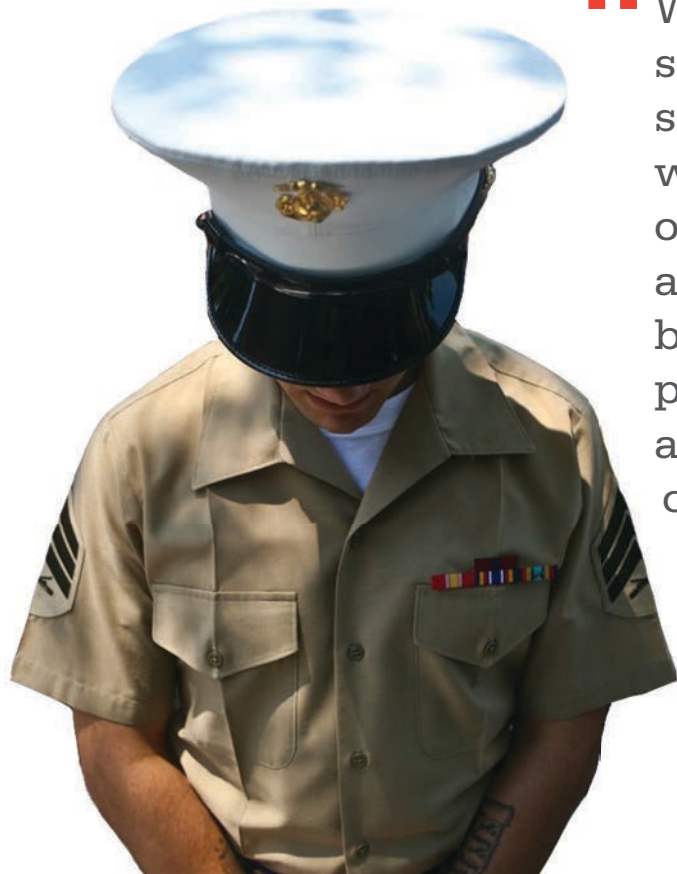
74
contributions

were featured in the first anthology

1,000
editions

of *Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors* were sold in just 16 days following publication on Veterans Day 2012. A second printing was ordered shortly after

“ What I want to leave behind is the unknown truth of me, a human as human as any other. I want to leave behind hope with the stories of how close I came to dying, how I endured, how I prevailed in all the unvarnished, inelegant beauty of it. I want to reassure you about me. ” – Vietnam War Veteran



“ Words give us the strength to look at suffering objectively, so we may set it aside and out of us. Words become a focus and writing becomes something physical you can tear up and burn. Words help others to feel what you are feeling, so they can understand and be closer to you. They help you feel less alone. ”

– Veteran



Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors

The anthology is the first in an annual series published by Southeast Missouri State University Press in cooperation with the Missouri Humanities Council's Veterans Projects and the Warriors Arts Alliance. The Missouri Humanities Council plans to expand the partnership to include additional organizations that are both concerned and supportive of American veterans. The anthology can be purchased from Southeast Missouri State University Press, Barnes & Noble, and Amazon. Proceeds from book sales help fund veterans' writing and publishing programs. The Council is currently producing a second volume.

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AQUILA THEATRE

ANCIENT GREEKS / MODERN LIVES

Introduction

Ancient Greeks/Modern Lives gives veterans and military family members the opportunity to share their stories and explore catharsis through performances and discussions of ancient Greek drama. Aquila Theatre's use of drama as a medium for veterans to process their experiences demonstrates how the NEH supports innovative work that complements therapy and medical treatments.

How It Works

Aquila Theatre (New York) created *Ancient Greeks/Modern Lives*, which toured 100 public libraries, community centers, and art venues around the country performing ancient Greek plays and holding town-hall style discussions for veterans, their families, and the general public. *Ancient Greeks/Modern Lives* created safe spaces for veterans and their families to feel comfortable sharing their experiences and reflections on being a soldier. Greek drama specifically provides a touchstone because Euripides and Sophocles were combat veterans writing about the experiences of soldiers for audiences of ancient Greek warriors. In 2011, the NEH welcomed *Ancient Greeks/Modern Lives* to the White House to commemorate Veterans Day.

103
locations

nationwide have hosted *Ancient Greeks/Modern Lives* programming

920
audience
members

in forty Acting Workshops

678,029
visits

to the program's interactive website

2,809
audience
members

in sixty-one Public Lectures

788,894
Americans

have been reached by the project

“If you want to understand catharsis, watch veterans watch a Greek play.”

– Peter Meineck, Program Director



“What they all say is that the technology of warfare changes, but that the stories describe the same basic experiences. We have talked about things like the death of a comrade, incompetent leadership, warriors returning from war...They are amazed at how familiar it sounds.”

– Program Host





“ I didn’t even know I had a story for a long, long, long, long time. I think that is why it is important to get people talking...it [Greek drama] brings up a mirror of truth and creates an arena for trust.”

– Vietnam Veteran & Aquila Performer



“ What has always helped me come back home is theater.”

– Iraq War Veteran & Aquila Performer



Number of Events by State

New York	50
California	24
Ohio	20
Kansas	13
Michigan	12
Colorado	10
Arizona	8
Florida	8
Washington, DC	7
Pennsylvania	7
Utah	7
Wyoming	7
Missouri	6
Louisiana	5
Virginia	5
North Carolina	4
Indiana	3
Maine	3
Mississippi	3
Nebraska	3
Nevada	3
Georgia	2
Illinois	2
Oregon	2
Wisconsin	2
West Virginia	2
South Carolina	1
Tennessee	1
Texas	1

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OPERATION OPPORTUNITY

THE WARRIOR-SCHOLAR PROJECT

Introduction

Created by Operation Opportunity and funded with a grant from the NEH, the Warrior-Scholar Project is an intensive two-week workshop hosted at America's top universities to ease veterans' transitions from active duty to higher education.

How It Works

The Warrior-Scholar Project focuses on sharpening and expanding the skills veterans learn as part of the military while simultaneously reintroducing them to the skills necessary to be successful in the classroom and on college campuses. Enrolled veterans participate in courses and discussions led by prominent professors, administrators, and current student-veterans. Topics include academic reading and writing as well as overcoming and embracing the challenges that are inevitably confronted by veterans returning to an academic environment. The classes are taught by some of Yale's top professors, including John Lewis Gaddis, Donald Kagan, and Charles Hill. Not only do the Warrior-Scholars participate in college-level seminars, but they also engage in more casual discussions on what to expect at the start of the semester.

3
students

from Yale University, Jesse Reising '11, Nick Rugoff '11 and Christopher Howell '13, developed the Warrior-Scholar project

9
veterans

attended the first cycle, a one week course in 2012

4-30
years

was the range of military experience of participants in the first session

24
veterans

will attend a full two-week course from June 2-16, 2013



“ The Warrior-Scholar Project has been the most valuable educational experience of my lifetime. ”
– Veteran Student



“ A crash-course on how to survive in college was really helpful for me. ”
– Veteran Student



“ The sights and sounds of Yale and the Warrior-Scholar Project are a distant echo, but the memories and the lessons learned ring loud and clear every day. ”

– Veteran Student

“ These veterans are remarkable people who have valuable skills and talents and remarkable life experiences, as well as extraordinary character and maturity ... Their time in college should help prepare them to make great contributions in civilian life — even their achievements in the military will help them contribute significantly to their institutions of higher education. ”

– Founder of Operation Opportunity



Who Can Attend?

Any veteran of the armed forces who is attending or plans to attend a four-year university is welcome to apply. Applications can be found on Operation Opportunity's website.

Volunteers

The Warrior-Scholar Project accepts volunteers, and any inquiries can be directed to their staff at info@operationopportunity.org.

Plans for Expansion

The Warrior-Scholar Project plans to expand to more college campuses in the near future, and has already selected a director for their expansion to Harvard in 2014.

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NAVY UDT-SEAL MUSEUM

Introduction

A grant from the NEH's Division of Preservation and Access allowed the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum to preserve their collection of historic Naval Special Warfare artifacts by purchasing proper archival-grade preservation, restoration, and exhibition supplies. The Museum houses artifacts that tell the stories of Navy SEALs and the special operations they enacted throughout history.

How It Works

Located in Fort Pierce, Florida, the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum is the only museum specifically focused on preserving the history of the Navy SEALs and their predecessors (including the Underwater Demolition Teams, Naval Combat Demolition Units, Office of Strategic Services Maritime Units and Amphibious Scouts and Raiders). The Preservation Assistance Grant from the NEH allowed the Museum to assure the upkeep of historic, archived materials. The Museum's primary goal is to educate the public about the SEALs' history, so the preservation and archiving of the Museum's extensive collection allows for its public programs to sustain and expand.

7,600
artifacts

housed in the Museum's collection, including personal papers, photographs, manuscripts, maps, charts, books, & other ephemera associated with the training, missions, & lives of Naval Special Warfare operators & commanders since World War II

2,974
images

cataloged, including photographic prints, negatives, slides and digital images in the Museum's extensive photographic images collection

2,309
items

contained in the Museum's archive including personal papers, memoirs, personnel records, mission debriefings, compiled team histories, manuscripts and institutional records

69,000
people

visited the Museum last year



Museum Mission Statement: Our continuing mission is to preserve the history of the US Navy SEALs and their predecessors, including the Underwater Demolition Teams, Naval Combat Demolition Units, Office of Strategic Services Maritime Units and Amphibious Scouts and Raiders.

“ Five years ago, we were losing SEALs at a rapid rate in Afghanistan. I wondered how all those men, and all the other Frogman and SEALs were being memorialized after their funerals. I found out that nowhere in the world is there a memorial to their sacrifice. Now there is, right here in Fort Pierce where the tradition began. ”

– David Godshall, Vero Beach

“ The impact on the collection from the NEH Grant has been very significant. I was able to use the grant to order much needed archival supplies to properly house parts of the collection. We are forever grateful to NEH for our grant and their ongoing efforts to help improve museums as good stewards. ”

– Museum Representative

NEH Preservation and Access Grants

The grant awarded to the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum is an on-going grant program in NEH's Division of Preservation and Access. This division's grants provide for general upkeep and accessibility of historical artifacts for cultural institutions like museums and libraries.

Similar to the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum, the Richard I. Bong Veteran Historical Center was awarded an NEH Preservation Assistance grant to preserve its historical artifacts. The Center's collection consists of more than 8,500 archival materials, audiotapes, and historic artifacts—including uniforms, weapons, and memorabilia—associated with WWII.

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100 FACES OF WAR EXPERIENCE

Introduction

The 100 Faces of War Experience is partially funded by the NEH's state council in Massachusetts, Mass Humanities, and focuses on interpreting members of the military's experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan through portraiture and short personal narratives.

How It Works

Artist Matthew Mitchell, a civilian who wanted to better connect with veterans, commissioned 100 paintings of different members of the armed forces and their families to describe their experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan. The project is ongoing—currently, Mitchell has completed 58 of the 100 paintings, all of which travel across the country as part of an exhibit. The exhibit appeared at the National Portrait Gallery in D.C., the Rayburn House Office Building in D.C., the Massachusetts State House in Boston, MA, as well as a number of other galleries, universities and cultural institutions. The 100th portrait will be unveiled in 2014.

7
states

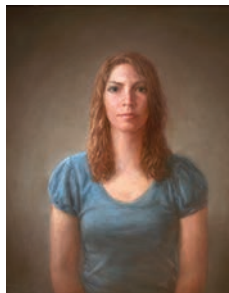
have venues that hosted exhibitions of the "100 Faces of War Experience" — Connecticut, DC, Ohio, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, and New York

58
portraits

of veterans and their families have been completed so far

4,533
visitors

to the exhibition at the Springfield Armory Museum and National Historic Site





“ When I think Smithsonian, I think George Washington, not Rick Yarosh. I see pride. I see someone who has overcome something, and I can tell [people] they can get through something. ”

– Rick Yarosh, Veteran

“ Through telling the stories and showing the pictures, [the Luceys] showed more faith in art, in the power of what I was doing – a very simple thing of painting – than I think I had. ”

– Matthew Mitchell on his painting of Veteran Jeff Lucey

Continuing to Add New Portraits

Applications to be portrayed in the exhibit are available online at www.100facesofwarexperience.org/apply.

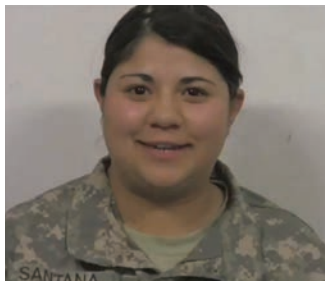
The goal of this artwork is to represent the full spectrum of roles and backgrounds, including at least one person from each of the 50 states.

7

CONCLUSION

Projects In Progress

This report features only a small selection of the NEH-funded initiatives that serve veterans and their communities. NEH funding often contributes to the early developmental stages of a project. *Journey to Normal: Women of War Come Home* and *Beyond Post-Traumatic Stress: Homefront Struggles with the Wars on Terror* are long-term projects nearing completion. Both represent the NEH's commitment to funding projects that bring the experiences of veterans to the attention of larger audiences.



Journey to Normal: Women of War Come Home

Julie Hera DeStefano is directing a documentary film that will share the experiences of female veterans by exploring the psychology of their service, their reintegration into civilian life, and their personal stories. Slated for release in fall 2013, *Journey to Normal* turns the story over to the women themselves, using personal narratives to illustrate female veterans' common experiences. In addition to the film, NEH funding also made possible an interactive website featuring a searchable database of interviews with female veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Beyond Post-Traumatic Stress: Homefront Struggles with the Wars on Terror

Anthropologists Jean Scandlyn and Sarah Hautzinger are researching and writing a book that takes a two-pronged approach to addressing the effects conflict has on veterans and their communities. The first part of the book focuses on the homecoming experience and how PTSD has become commonplace among veterans. The second portion explores the roles of people within the community, including spouses and caregivers. They also analyze how communities react to returning combat veterans and war in general. More than twenty student researchers from Colorado College and University of Colorado Denver (Scandlyn and Hautzinger's home institutions) have participated in research for the project.

Conclusion

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) recognizes that the humanities can play an important role in the lives of veterans, their families, and caregivers. The programs featured in this report prove that engagement with the humanities positively supports veterans and their communities in processing difficult experiences. Additionally, the humanities are necessary to preserve the stories of today's veterans for future generations. Projects like the Missouri Humanities Council's Warrior-Writers Project give veterans a way to achieve catharsis while also creating a historical record. Increasing dialogue between civilians and veterans through the humanities strengthens communities nationwide.

The projects showcased in this report are examples of how private organizations and individuals can develop engaging humanities programs for veterans and create communities of support with relatively low levels of funding. Not only can your constituents become involved in many of the programs included in this report, but they can also create new, local versions of these programs. Please connect your constituents with the NEH or any of the organizations featured here to bring these educational opportunities to your community. The NEH is proud to support a diverse set of cultural centers and organizations, including NEH-funded state humanities councils, in an endeavor to engage veterans in the humanities.

Design Credit — Daphne Kiplinger

The graphic design layout of this and the other 3 reports issued to Congress on the impact of NEH funding was designed by Daphne Kiplinger, a graduate student at Boston University's Center for Digital Imaging Arts in DC.

Photo Credits

Literature and Medicine: Photos courtesy of Literature and Medicine

Missouri Warrior-Writers Project: Veteran holding flag: Photo Credit Lance Cpl. Phillip R. Clark; Men in uniform: Photo courtesy of NYCMarines

Proud to Be anthology cover: Photo Courtesy of the Missouri Warrior-Writers Project

Ancient Greeks/Modern Lives: Photography by Richard Termine

The Warrior-Scholar Project: Credit: Kimberly Pasko, Office of Public Affairs and Communications, Yale University

Navy UDT-SEAL Museum: Photos courtesy of the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum

100 Faces of War Experience: Photography and Portraits by Matthew Mitchell

Journey to Normal: Women of War Come Home: Photos from the documentary film trailer on YouTube



About the NEH

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is an independent federal agency created in 1965. It is one of the largest funders of humanities programs in the United States.

Because democracy demands wisdom, NEH serves and strengthens our republic by promoting excellence in the humanities and conveying the lessons of history to all Americans. The Endowment accomplishes this mission by awarding grants for top-rated proposals examined by panels of independent, external reviewers.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities

